

Spider Fauna of India: Catalogue and Bibliography

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This paper contains a systematic list of species, and the literature references, of the spiders occurring in India. 382 species, contained in 123 genera of 30 families, are listed.

INTRODUCTION

More than ninety years have passed since the study of Indian spiders was first taken up by European arachnologists. Although spiders are extremely abundant throughout the country, our knowledge of the Indian forms is extremely fragmentary. One of the earliest contributions on Indian spiders was by Stoliczka (1869). Simon (1889), Cambridge (1869) and Karsch (1873) reported many interesting forms from India, Ceylon and Minicoy Islands. Thorell (1895) published a descriptive catalogue of over two hundred species of Burmese spiders, including about 150 new species. Pocock (1899-1901) recorded hardly two hundred species from India, Burma and Ceylon. Sherriffs (1927-1951) described numerous interesting species from south India. Gravely (1912-1935) added considerably to our knowledge of Indian spiders, particularly Lycosidae, Ctenidae, Clubionidae etc. A number of species from Lahore were described by Dyal (1935). Narayan (1915) gave interesting accounts of many ant-like spiders of the family Salticidae and recorded the occurrence of several remarkable forms in India. Recent studies on the Lycosidae, Argiopidae and Hersiliidae by Sinha (1951-1952) may also be mentioned as important contributions to our knowledge of arachnology of India. Very recently Tikader (1960-1969) described a number of species of the various families from India. Sen (1963) and Basu (1963-65) are also working on the spider fauna of India.

In the field of spider taxonomy, revision of genera and species, description of new species and investigation of fauna, etc. have been kept up by several pioneering arachnologists, whose work has thrown much light in the various field of arachnology. But unfortunately it is not ascertained yet, however, how many species there are in Indian sub-continent, nor can a complete list of known Indian spiders be found.

Therefore the author, has now attempted to prepare a tentative list of them based on the data which he possesses as a result of his examination both of literature and of the specimens obtained by him in the course of many years. The present report comprises a list of Indian spiders and their distribution and type information as far as it is available to him.

Still it is very difficult to make a complete list at present, for there are some families of Indian spiders that have yet to be re-examined. It would gratify the author, if this list would serve in some measure as a stepping stone for the future advancement of arachnology in India. During the past fifteen years the author has concentrated his energy upon the pursuance of this study. However, this has been possible only through the kindness and courtesy of many learned and experienced people in the field of arachnology. In the catalogue section of this paper, families, genera and species are listed alphabetically for convenience.

The bibliography at the end contains 105 titles dealing with Indian spiders. These titles are arranged alphabetically, authorwise and numbered serially.

Abbreviations and symbols : Question mark '?' indicates the information of type deposit are not known or very little information is available. ZSI (Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta). BMNH [British Museum (Natural History), London]. MNHN (Museum National d' Histoire Naturelle, Paris).

CATALOGUE OF INDIAN SPIDERS

Family AGELENIDAE

Genus *AGELENA* Walcknaer 1805

1. *Agelena gautami* Tikader 1962. *J. Linn. Soc. London* 44 : 569, fig. 2.

Distribution : India : Shillong, Assam.

Type : ZSI.

Genus *TEGENARIA* Latreille 1804

2. *Tegenaria lunakensis* Tikader 1964. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 59 (3) : 258, fig. 1a-d.

Distribution : India : Lunak, Central Himalaya.

Type : ZSI.

Family ARGIOPIDAE

Genus *ARANEUS* Clerck 1757

3. ***Araneus bilunifer*** Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 227, fig. 74.
Distribution : India : Madras State.
Type : BMNH.
4. ***Araneus dehaanii*** (Doleschall) 1859.
Epeira dehaanii Doleschall 1859. *Verh. Nat. Vereen. Nederl.* 5 (5) : 33, fig. 7.
Distribution : India : Kerala, Mysore, West Bengal, Assam ; Sikkim ; Burma ; Austro-Malaysia.
Type : ?
5. ***Araneus laglaizei*** Simon 1877. *Ann. Soc. Ent. France* 7 (5) : 77.
Distribution : India : Ootacamund ; Burma ; Austro-Malaysia.
Type : MNHN.
6. ***Araneus mitifica*** (Thorell) 1887.
Epeira mitifica Thorell 1887. RAGNI BIRMANI p. 187.
Distribution : India : West Bengal, Mysore and Maharashtra ; Burma.
Type : BMNH.
7. ***Araneus nauticus*** Koch 1875. *Aegypt. Abyssin. Arachn.*, p. 17, fig. 2.
Distribution : India : Poona, Darjeeling, Eastern Khandesh ; Burma.
Type : ?
8. ***Araneus rumpfi*** Thorell 1878. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 13 : 296.
Distribution : India : Madras, Bangalore, Poona ; Burma ; Austro-Malaysia.
Type : BMNH.
9. ***Araneus unicolor*** (Doleschall) 1857.
Epeira unicolor Doleschall 1857. *Nat. Tijdschr. Nederland* 13 : 419.
Distribution : India : Nagaland ; Ceylon ; Burma.
Type : ?

Genus *ARGIOPE* Savigny 180910. *Argiope aemula* (Walck.) 1837.*Epeira aemula* Walck. 1837. *Ins. Apt.*, 2 : 118.=*Argyope aemula* Pocock 1900. FAUNA OF BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 223.*Distribution* : India : Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nicobar Islands ; Ceylon; Burma; Malaysia.*Type* : ?11. *Argiope anasuja* Thorell 1887. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 25 : 162.=*Argyope anasuja* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 222.*Distribution* : India : Madras, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal ; Ceylon.*Type* : BMNH.12. *Argiope arcuata* Simon 1884. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 20 : 343.=*Argyope arcuata* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 220.*Distribution* : India : Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Mysore ; Burma.*Type* : MNHN.13. *Argiope catenulata* (Doleschall) 1859.*Epeira catenulata* Dol. 1859. *Verh. Nat. Vereen. Nederland*, 5 (5) : 30, fig. 1.=*Argyope catenulata* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 223.*Distribution* : India : Salt lake near Calcutta, Nicobar Islands ; Ceylon ; Burma ; Austro-Malaysia.*Type* : ?14. *Argiope kalimpongensis* Sinha 1951. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 49 : 77, fig. 3a-c.*Distribution* : India : Sibsagar, Assam, Coorg, Darjeeling, Kalimpong.*Type* : ZSI.15. *Argiope lalita* Sherriffs 1928. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (10) 2 (8) : 186, figs. 3-7.*Distribution* : India : Mysore, West Bengal.*Type* : BMNH.16. *Argiope lobata* (Pallas) 1772.*Aranea lobata* Pallas 1772. *Spic. Zool.* 1 (9) : 46, fig. 14.=*Argyope lobata* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 221.*Distribution* : India : Mysore, Madhya Pradesh.*Type* : ?

17. **Argiope pradhani** Sinha 1951. *Rec. Indian Mus.* **49** : 76, fig. 2a-c.
Distribution : India : Saran, Bihar, Shillong, Assam.
Type : ZSI.
18. **Argiope pulchella** Thorell 1881. *Ann. Mus. Genova* **17** : 74.
 = *Argyope pulchella* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 221.
Distribution : India : Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mysore, Madras, U.P.
Type : BMNH.
19. **Argiope shillongensis** Sinha 1951. *Rec. Indian Mus.* **49** : 75, fig. 1a-c.
Distribution : India : Assam, Shillong.
Type : ZSI.
20. **Argiope undulata** Thorell 1887. *Ann. Mus. Genova* **25** : 154.
 = *Argyope undulata* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 222.
Distribution : Andaman Islands ; Burma ; Malay Peninsula.
Type : BMNH.

Genus *CHORIZOPES* Cambridge 1870

21. **Chorizopes anjanus** Tikader 1965. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* **62** : 94, fig. 2a-d.
Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type : ZSI.
22. **Chorizopes khanjanus** Tikader 1965. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* **62** : 95, fig. 3a-c.
Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type : ZSI.

Genus *CLADOMELEA* Simon 1895

23. **Cladomelea mundhva** Tikader 1962. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* **57** : 97, fig. 2a, b.
Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type : ZSI.

Genus *CYCLOSA* Menge 1866

24. **Cyclosa bifida** (Dol.) 1859.
Epeira bifida Dol. 1859. *Tweede Bijdr.* p. 38.
Distribution : India : Shillong ; Burma ; Singapore.
Type : ?

25. **Cyclosa confraga** (Thorell) 1892.
Epeira confraga Thorell 1892. *Novae species Aranearum*, p. 31.
Distribution: India : Poona, Mysore, Assam, Sikkim and Burma.
Type: BMNH.
26. **Cyclosa insulana** (Costa) 1834.
Epeira insulana Costa 1834. *Cenni. Zool. etc.*, p. 65.
Distribution: India : Maharashtra, Mysore, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Sikkim; Nepal; Ceylon and Burma.
Type: ?
27. **Cyclosa moondensis** Tikader 1963. *J. Poona Univ. Sci. & Tech.* 24 : 44, fig. 5a, b.
Distribution: India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type: ZSI.
28. **Cyclosa mulmeinensis** (Thorell) 1887.
Epeira mulmeinensis Thorell. RAGNI BIRMANI, p. 221.
Distribution: India : Maharashtra and Mysore States; Burma.
Type: BMNH.

Genus **CYRTARACHNE** Thorell 1868

29. **Cyrtarachne avimerdaria** Tikader 1963. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60 : 269, fig. 1a-c.
Distribution: India : Cherrapunji, Assam.
Type: ZSI.
30. **Cyrtarachne bengalensis** Tikader 1960. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 57 : 550, fig. 3a-c.
Distribution: India : Sibpur Botanical Garden, West Bengal.
Type: ZSI.
31. **Cyrtarachne biswamoyi** Tikader 1960. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 57 : 554, fig. 5a-c.
Distribution: India : Mukki, Balaghat Dist., Madhya Pradesh.
Type: ZSI.
32. **Cyrtarachne gravelyi** Tikader 1960. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 57 : 553, fig. 4a-c.
Distribution: India : Darjeeling, West Bengal, Manipur, Assam.
Type: ZSI.

33. *Cyrtarachne inaequalis* Thorell 1895. SPIDERS OF BURMA, p. 201.
Distribution : India : West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Assam ; Burma ; Japan.
Type : BMNH.
34. *Cyrtarachne promilai* Tikader 1963. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60 : 274, fig. 4j-1.
Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type : ZSI.
35. *Cyrtarachne raniceps* Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 229.
Distribution : India : West Bengal, Maharashtra, Mysore ; Ceylon.
Type : BMNH.
36. *Cyrtarachne schmidi* Tikader 1963. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60 : 271, fig. 2d-f.
Distribution : India : Kameng, N.E.F.A.
Type : ZSI.
37. *Cyrtarachne sundari* Tikader 1963. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 60 : 273, fig. 3g-i.
Distribution : India : Poona, Maharashtra.
Type : ZSI.

Genus *CYRTOPHORA* Simon 1864

38. *Cyrtophora cicatrosa* (Stoliczka) 1869.
Epeira (Nephila) cicatrosa Stoliczka 1869. *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal* 38 : 242, fig. 5.
Distribution : India : Chingleput, Allahabad, West Bengal, Mysore, Maharashtra, Punjab ; Burma ; New Guinea.
Type : ZSI.
39. *Cyrtophora citricola* (Forskål) 1775.
Aranea citricola Forskål 1775. *Descript. Anima.*, p. 86.
Distribution : India : Bangalore, Poona, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Rajasthan ; Burma ; Ceylon ; Australia ; Madagascar ; Africa ; Europe and Egypt.
Type : ?

40. **Cyrtophora feae** (Thorell) 1887.

Araneus feae Thorell 1887. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 25 : 173.

Distribution : India : West Bengal ; Burma.

Type : BMNH.

41. **Cyrtophora moluccensis** (Doleschall) 1857.

Epeira moluccensis Dol. 1857. *Nat. Tijdschr. Nederland* 13 : 418.

Distribution : India : Trivandrum, Nilgiri Hills, Madhya Pradesh, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Sikkim ; Ceylon ; Burma.

Type : ?

Genus **GASTERACANTHA** Sundevall 1833

42. **Gasteracantha arcuata** (Fabricius) 1793.

Aranea arcuata Fab. 1793. *Ent. Syst.* 2 : 425.

Distribution : India : Assam, Sibsagar, West Bengal, Darjeeling, Sikkim ; Burma and Malaysia.

Type : ?

43. **Gasteracantha brevispina** (Doleschall) 1857.

Plectana brevispina Dol. 1857. *Nat. Tijdschr. Nederland* 13 : 423.

Distribution : India : Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; Ceylon ; Burma ; Austro-Malaysia and Japan.

Type : ?

44. **Gasteracantha leucomelaena** (Doleschall) 1859.

Plectana leucomelaena Dol. 1859. *Verh. Nat. Vereen. Nederland* 5 (5) : 42, fig. 8.

Distribution : India : Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Nicobar Islands, Assam ; Bhutan ; Burma ; Malaysia and Japan.

Type : ?

45. **Gasteracantha dalyi** Pocock 1900. FAUNA BRIT. INDIA *Arachnida*, p. 232.

Distribution : India : Shevaroy Hills, south India.

Type : BMNH.

46. **Gasteracantha diadestia** Thorell 1887. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 25 : 225.

Distribution : India : Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; Burma.

Type : BMNH.

47. **Gasteracantha geminata** (Fabricius) 1798.
Aranea geminata Fab. 1798. *Suppl. Ent. Syst.*, p. 292.
Distribution : India : Kerala, Mysore ; Ceylon.
Type : ?
48. **Gasteracantha hasseltii** Koch 1838. *Arach.* 4 : 29, fig. 267.
Distribution : India : Kerala, Orissa, Madras, West Bengal,
 Assam, Sikkim ; Burma.
Type : ?
49. **Gasteracantha remifera** Butler 1873. *Tr. Ent. Soc.*, p. 154, fig. 5.
Distribution : India : Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; Ceylon.
Type : ?
50. **Gasteracantha sororna** Butler 1873. *Tr. Ent. Soc.*, p. 155, fig. 15.
Distribution : India : Madras.
Type : ?
51. **Gasteracantha unguifera** Simon 1889. *J. Asia. Soc. Bengal*
 58 : 336.
Distribution : India : West Bengal, Darjeeling, Kalimpong,
 Sikkim.
Type : MNHN.

Genus *HERENNIA* Thorell 1877

52. **Herennia ornatissima** (Doleschall) 1859.
Epeira ornatissima Dol. 1859. *Verh. Nat. Vereen. Nederland* 5 (5) : 32.
Distribution : India : Assam, West Bengal, Madras, Madhya
 Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala ; Ceylon ; Burma.
Type : ?

Genus *LEUCAUGE* White 1841

53. **Leucauge bengalensis** Gravely 1921. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 22 : 455,
 fig. 8g, h.
Distribution : India : Calcutta, Hooghly and 24 Parganas.
Type : ZSI.
54. **Leucauge celebesiana** (Walcknaer) 1837.
Tetragnatha celebesiana Walck. 1837. *Ins. Apt.* 2 : 222.
Distribution : India : Ootacamund, Poona, Calcutta, Darjeeling,
 Kalimpong, Gopaldhara, Shillong, Assam ; Ceylon ; Burma ;
 Celebes.
Type : ?

55. **Leucauge culta** (Cambridge) 1869.

Tetragnatha culta Cambridge 1869. *Proc. Linn. Soc. London* 10 : 390, figs. 69-75.

Distribution : India : Darjeeling Dist.; Ceylon.

Type : BMNH.

56. **Leucauge decorata** (Blackwall) 1864.

Tetragnatha decorata Blackwall 1864. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 14 (3) : 44.

Distribution : India : Bangalore, Mysore, Coonoor, Nilgiri Hills, Madras, Barkul, Dehra Dun, Katihar, Siripur, Darjeeling, Calcutta ; Ceylon.

Type : BMNH.

57. **Leucauge tessellata** (Thorell) 1887.

Argyropeira tessellata Thorell 1887. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 25 : 135.

Distribution : India : Cochin, Gopaldhara, Kalimpong, Assam, Sikkim; Bhutan; Burma.

Type : BMNH.

58. **Leucauge ventralis** (Thorell) 1877.

Meta ventralis Thorell 1877. *Ann. Mus. Genova* 10 : 423.

Distribution : India : Cochin, Calcutta ; Ceylon.

Type : BMNH.

Genus *NEPHILA* Leach 1815

59. **Nephila clavata** Koch 1877. *Verh. z.b. Ges. Wien* 27 : 741.

Distribution : India : Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Laccadive Islands, Andaman Islands, Shillong, Assam ; Sikkim ; Bhutan ; Burma and Japan.

Type : ?

60. **Nephila kuhlii** Doleschall 1859. *Verh. Nat. Vereen. Nederland* 5 (5) : 27, fig. 7.

Distribution : India : West Bengal ; Burma.

Type : ?

61. **Nephila maculata** (Fabr.) 1793.

Aranea maculata Fabr. 1793. *Ent. Syst.* 2 : 425.

Distribution : India : West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Andaman Islands, Maharashtra, Mysore, Kerala, Madras ; Bhutan ; Burma ; Ceylon ; China ; Japan.

Type : ?

62. **Nephila malabarensis** (Walck.) 1837.

Epeira malabarensis Walck. 1837. *Ins. Apt.* 2 : 103.

Distribution : India : Bombay, Bihar, Nicobar Islands, Kerala State; Burma; Ceylon; Thailand; Java; New Guinea; Australia.

Type : ?

63. **Nephila robusta** Tikader 1962. *J. Linn. Soc. London* 44 : 566.

Distribution : India : Goberdanga near Calcutta.

Type : ZSI.

Genus **ORDGARIUS** Keyserling 188664. **Ordgarius hobsoni** (Cambridge) 1877.

Cyrtarachne hobsoni Cambridge 1877. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, p. 562, fig. 3.

Distribution : India : Bombay, Poona Maharashtra; Ceylon; Japan.

Type : BMNH.

Genus **ORSINOME** Thorell 189065. **Orsinome armata** Pocock 1901. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 13 : 480.

Distribution : India: Shillong, Assam.

Type : BMNH.

66. **Orsinome marmorea** Pocock 1901. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 13 : 479.

Distribution : India : Ootacamund, Travancore.

Type : BMNH.

Genus **PASILOBUS** Simon 189567. **Pasilobus kotigeharus** Tikader 1962. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 57 : 96, fig. 1.

Distribution : India : Kotigehara, Chikmagalur Dist., Mysore.

Type : ZSI.

Genus **VENDILGARDIA** Simon 189568. **Vendilgardia assamensis** Louis 1924. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 26 ; 64, fig. 1a-c.

Distribution : India : Siju Cave, Garo Hills, Assam.

Type : ZSI.

(to be continued)